

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to the The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network and the 2006 US Census Bureau population estimates, there are more than 350,000 North Carolina residents with food allergies, and more than 60,000 NC school-aged children (ages 5 to 17) with food allergies; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, food allergy occurs in 6 to 8 percent of children under the age of 4, as well as 4 percent of adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, food allergy reactions cause 30,000 visits to the emergency room and 150 deaths each year; and

WHEREAS, food allergy deaths are caused by individuals eating a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

WHEREAS, children are the largest group affected by food allergies; and

WHEREAS, researchers estimate that approximately 12 million Americans have food allergies; and

WHEREAS, symptoms can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

WHEREAS, according to the The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, eight foods cause 90% of all food allergy reactions: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies; and

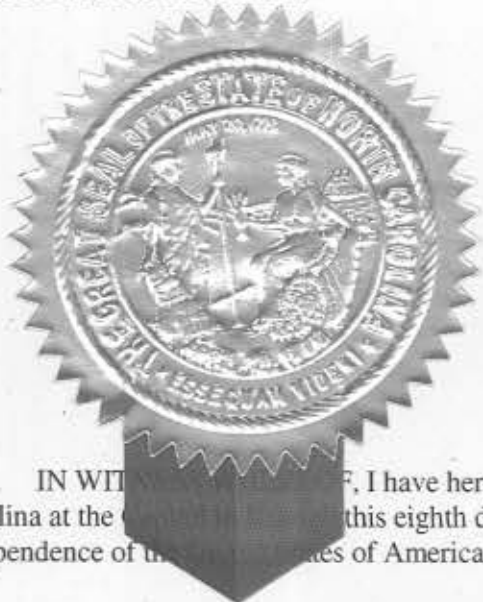
WHEREAS, strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent a reaction; and

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction affecting major organs in the body simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, in severely allergic individuals, anaphylaxis can cause death in a matter of minutes; and

WHEREAS, eating in restaurants and at schools are the situations posing the highest risk for people with food allergies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 11-17, 2008, as "FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK" in North Carolina, and I commend this observance to our citizens.



  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the City of Raleigh this eighth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.